

NAPALM RAID



Isn't such a wonderful feeling traveling around being filthy and playing loud noise in every city you visit? I know some fellas who got so high on touring the first time they haven't stopped since, one demo and three records later they are on their long North American trek. If you haven't seen them yet I'm sure they will drop a noise bomb in your neck of woods soon, seek out their next tour dates and Rust and Machine for some records. Their sound is heavy and hard hitting, backed with pummeling fast tight drumming and fronted by an anguished crusty howl. Read on as Corpse, responsible for guitars and vox, answers some questions. Studded leather, bashing heads, whipping hair, a putrid stench in the air, protest and survive!
Interview and intro by Ben Radford. Photos provided by Ben Radford.

MRR: First off, let's get the facts. Who plays what?

Graham plays drums, Corpse is on guitar and vox and Tom plays bass.

MRR: What was the reason for the beginning of Napalm Raid? How long have you been together?

I wanted to start Napalm Raid for a while. I wanted to do something other than what I was playing at the time. Eventually a few of us were drinking together and decided to start it up for fun. We played a bunch of local shows and after maybe a year or so we wanted to start getting serious with it and tour/record. There were a few line-up changes over the past few years, but things are solid now. 2009 was when we started really doing something.

MRR: Could you share some of your musical influences, as well as some personal ideals, feelings, politics, etc. that you put forth while writing and playing?

Early Doom is a one big influence for me; I'm pretty sure that's no secret. We all listen to different types of music so it helps in the writing process. We stay focused on what we want the band to sound like: simple, aggressive, loud, heavy and punk. Lyrics usually take the longest, even though some songs are a few lines long. I write about what's on my mind at the time. I can't speak for the other guys, but I keep to myself usually about politics. Debating over issues does not interest me, nor is trying to make someone think the way I do. I have my beliefs and you have yours. I do very much enjoy just listening to what others have to say about certain things, as I can always learn something new!

MRR: Being a band from a somewhat remote location, you tour quite frequently. What drives you? What are your plans for the next tour?

We are pretty secluded out here. We just like getting the fuck out on the road, to party and play shows. We have all been trying to do this for a long time and now, having three people that are all on the same page, we are taking advantage of it. It's pretty easy to get into a routine here, so we try to tour as much as we can, so we have something to work towards when we are back home. It's worth starving ourselves here to make it out on the road as much as possible.

Our next tour starts in May, we are doing shows in the US, Mexico and Canada in support of our 12" EP that will be out just before we leave. After this tour we want to start touring overseas. Hopefully in fall 2012.

MRR: Any special tour memories or stories you would like to share?

We picked up our friend Nick in Seattle and he came to a few shows with us. He said lately he kept waking up in the morning thinking he had pissed his pants, but it turns out that he passed out with a beer in his hand and spilled it on his himself. We played in Olympia and he passed out when all the beer was gone, so I poured a bunch of water on his crotch so he'd think he had really pissed himself this time. In the morning I went to the couch where he had passed out and he was sleeping on his stomach. I told him the room smelled like piss and asked if he pissed himself. He denied it and just looked awkward. I eventually told him later that day what I did and just assumed I failed at the attempt. That night we got drunk and he slipped up that he woke up in the middle of the night and tried to clean his pants and the couch up because he actually thought he pissed his pants and was trying to hide it. When I told him earlier what I did he just didn't want to give me the satisfaction of it working.

There are a ton of stories about our van. I bought it for \$300 and it lasted four years of touring. We are retiring it now because Graham and I smashed the windshield on the

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road in September. It's also completely rusted out. I used to have to crawl underneath every time we needed to start it and turn the flywheel by hand so the starter would have a place to catch. Was sketchy in busy streets. One time when we played Atlanta with Contagium I lit off a smoke bomb inside it and the driver ended up rear-ending our friends' car in front of us. There are a fuck load of van stories, anyone that has seen the van or partied in it knows what's up with that thing.

MRR: How is being a punk band in Halifax at the moment? Any local bands to speak of?

Punk in Halifax is great. It has been especially rad this past summer. House shows are usually a rare occurrence around here because it's hard to find a house or apartment that you can have shows in, let alone have a jam space. The cops are real fucking pricks here. But lately it seems there are a good handful of new spots to play and they are usually packed. There are a lot of active and newly formed bands like Concrete Asylum, Absolute Hell, Silent Order, Burnt Church and Vixens, just to name a few. Halifax definitely has some good shit going on in the punk and the metal scenes.

MRR: You have released two records with Rust and Machine from Seattle, what's next? Have you recorded anything recently? If so, how did it go?

Our next release is our 12" EP with Rust and Machine also releasing it. It will be out just before we tour in May. We are definitely a lot happier with this recording because we finally had our own gear and sound figured out. Things went a lot smoother and we did it live off the floor right beside each other, no separate rooms or any of that shit.

MRR: Anything else you would like to add?

We would like to thank everyone that has helped us out! Bands, promoters and the people that go out of their way to make things happen for us are what keep us wanting to do this!

www.napalmraid.blogspot.com

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CORRUPTION OF THEIR LITTLE MINDS